

Erin Welch
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Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Erin Welch. I am a director and live in Pittston.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. As a Director of a facility I see first hand how these cuts will affect our staff. Some staff are already discussing their job searches if these cuts are made. They rely on the supplemental bonuses to help pay their bills. ECE is already severely under staffed. I can only imagine the places that will need to close their doors due to lack of funding and lack of quality staff. Childcare funding is absolutely necessary to provide families and children with quality early education!

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Families from lower economic status deserve the same quality education as those in higher economic areas. Please continue to support these programs so we can provide children with a safe and fun education!

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. These funds are needed to help our childcare workers! With the already low wages they simply cannot afford to pay for full time care. They work so hard to help provide other children with quality experience and need help putting their own children in the programs they work. If they cannot place their children in childcare they cannot work. Again, childcare is already severely understaffed. We need help supporting workers and programs so we can keep our doors open for the many families that utilize care.